

Students who will participate in exchange program to China are greeted at UFRGS

With a scholarship from Hanban and the Communication University of China, students will learn Chinese language and literature

UFRGS' President Rui Oppermann and Vice-President Jane Tutikian greeted, on July 24th, UFRGS' students who were selected for an exchange program and granted a scholarship at the Communication University of China (CUC). The five lucky chosen ones are from the Confucius Institute at UFRGS and will embark on the study of Chinese language and literature at the end of August. The scholarship is offered by CUC and by Hanban, an institution linked to China's Education Ministry, and its duration period can vary from six months to four years.

Journalism student Caroline da Silva Silveira, who will spend one semester at CUC, shares she became familiar with the Confucius Institute after reading a news article at UFRGS' website, and became interested in studying Mandarin. "I didn't think much about it, I just did it. I signed up and have been taking advantage of all the opportunities which show up," she says. "Chinese is an important addition to everybody's resume," the student emphasizes, reinforcing her interest in International Journalism and her intention of working in China in the future and helping broaden our knowledge information about the country to Brazil.

Professional interest was also one of the motivation factors for Samuel Nunes Sant'Anna, who will have his entire undergraduate education in Chinese Language Education for Speakers of Other Languages at CUC during the next four years. He shares his intentions of using this opportunity to enrich his resume, make contacts and seek partnerships for research. Just like Samuel, the intention of building relations and straighten ties with the Chinese was also a decisive factor for the Computer Engineering student Lucas Diehl Di Concilio Campos, who will participate in the exchange program for a year.

With an academic interest in psycholinguistics with focus on foreign language acquisition, the Languages student Leonardo Cláudio da Rosa, in turn, intends to take advantage of the next year to become familiar with Chinese research on the field and see how the process of teaching languages occurs in the country. "Maybe even help implement an undergraduate course on Mandarin here", he stresses.

Also present at the meeting, the Bachelor of Science in International Affairs Mateus da Veiga Bilhar shared his experience as an exchange student at CUC during last year. After finishing his undergraduate education, Mateus is now going back to China to pursue a Master's degree, a window of opportunity opened through the contacts he developed in his exchange program and in the Confucius Institute. "Seize this time to deepen your studies and go after opportunities," he advised the next travelers.

"This is a moment to celebrate," highlighted the Chinese director of the Confucius Institute at UFRGS, Tiejun Gu. As the Brazilian director of the Confucius Institute, Antonio Padula, pointed out, it is an important moment not only for the students, but also for the University. In Oppermann's view, exchange programs for students are strategic to expand and strengthen UFRGS' affairs with Chinese institutions. "We are very proud of students who not only go, but give their studies continuity," he emphasizes. Tutikian, who was the first director of the Confucius Institute at UFRGS, reiterated the certainty that exchange students will bring great contributions and emphasized: "we have a lot to learn from the Chinese".

Translated by Hannah dos Santos Kahn, under the supervision and translation revision of Professor Elizamari Becker (PhD) – UFRGS/IL.

Sources



Greeting occurred at the Dean's Noble Office - Photo - Gustavo Diehl/UFRGS

<https://www.icufrgs.com.br/>

<http://www.ufrgs.br/ufrgs/noticias/galerias/estudantes-que-farao-intercambio-para-a-china-sao-recebidos-na-reitoria>

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